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By: Hans-Jürgen Hacke

Date: Nov 12, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hans-Jürgen Hacke /
Applic. No. : 09/833,260 /
Filed : April 10, 2001 /
Title : Electronic Component Having Microscopically
Small Contact Areas and Method for
Fabricating It
Examiner : Nitin Parekh
Group Art Unit: 2811

R E S P O N S E

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231

S i r :

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 11, 2002, the following remarks are made:

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner made a restriction requirement between the product claims (claims 52-77) and the method claims (claims 78-104).

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that "the device of group I invention could be made by the process different from those of group II invention. For

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example, by applying the closed conductive layer using electroplating process instead of chemical deposition or sputtering".

Claim 78 recites "applying a closed conductive layer". Dependent claim 80, which is dependent on claim 78, recites that the step of "applying a closed conductive layer" is performed using either vapor-deposition, sputtering, or deposition. However, whether or not a dependent claim contains additional limitations is irrelevant to the invention as recited in independent claim 78. Claim 78 merely recites "applying a closed conductive layer". Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner re-consider the restriction requirement made.

In deference to the restriction requirement on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, Applicant elects, under traverse, provisionally invention I (claims 52-~~57~~) for prosecution at this time. 77

Should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement, Applicant requests a rejoinder under MPEP §821.04 for the non-elected method claims at an appropriate later date.

Applicant will consider in due time whether or not to file a divisional for any non-elected method claims.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits, and the allowance of the claims are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Markus Noll", is written over a horizontal line.

MARKUS NOLFF
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